

REGION ISSUES CALL TO BASKETEERS

Physical Misfits Often Excel in the Toughest Tests of Sport Competition

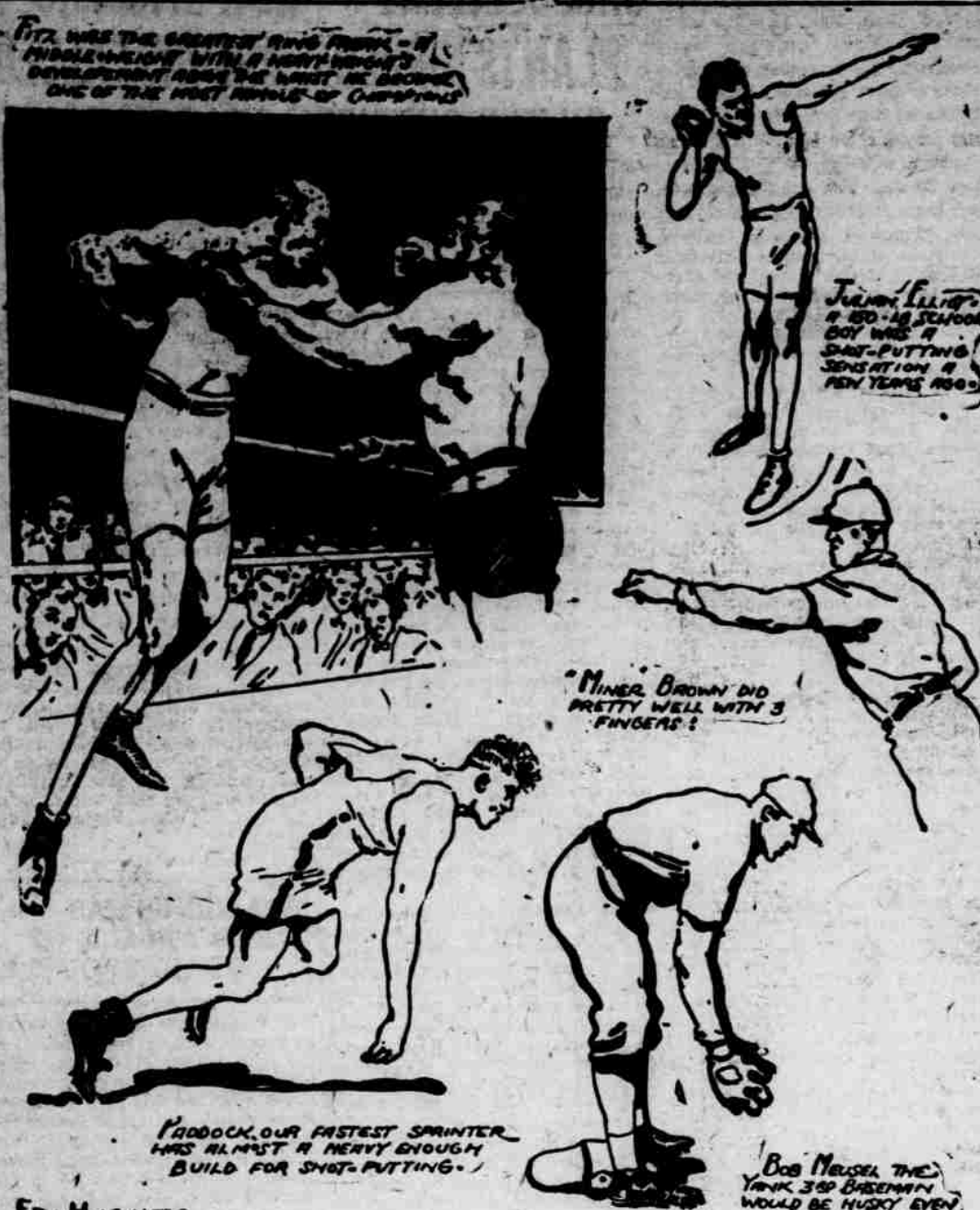


Illustration of a basketball player in mid-air, shooting a ball. The player is wearing a jersey with 'ROCK ISLAND' and '1924' on it. The ball is in the air above the player's head. The background shows a basketball court with spectators and a referee.

BY ED HUGHES.

How often is it heard in reference to an athlete "physically he leaves nothing to be desired." A good physique, the proper conformation of sinew and muscle for a particular branch of athletics is indeed a comforting asset for any athlete to begin with. But how many of the so-called "physical misfits" establish enviable records in the realm of sports? Every trail of sports furnishes a stirring example of the man who has overcome physical odds and created undying fame for himself.

There's a young Billy Johnston, former world's premier tennis player, and still rated about on a par with the wonderful Tilden. Johnston is scarcely more than five feet tall. Physically he is small in every way. People wonder from what source in his slight frame comes the power to endure the rigors of a long championship match.

Whence does he derive the force for his terrific serving and ripping cross court drives? Nobody knows. People always associate a court champion with men of big build like Tilden himself and the late Anthony Wilding. But it isn't always so ordained.

Shotputting is acknowledged to be a test of muscle combined with some little skill. Yet some years ago Julian Elliott, a 160 pound school boy with over-developed wrists, started the shotputting world with his prodigious feat from the wooden half-ring. He had all the "wholes"—Ralph Rose, Al Plaw, Martin Sheridan and the rest worried for a time.

No one thought that Fitzsimmons with his dwarfed, spindle-legs would get far amongst the huskies of the ring. His legs wouldn't hold up under the heavy mauling, 'twas said. But they did. His murderous punching took him to the pinnacle. "The bigger they are the harder they fall," philosophized Ruby Robert.

Big Third Basemen. Bob Meusel, a strapping six-footer covers third base in acceptable fashion for the Yankees. He would be deemed big, even as an outfielder. People figured he wouldn't display enough ability for the fast play demanded of the infield. Meusel fooled 'em.

Dick Kerr, one of the shortest on the diamond, is also one of the best in the box. At first they tried to discourage his aspirations to become a pitcher on account of his slight lines. They advised him to try shortstop. Kerr wouldn't have it so and has since won his place amongst the formidable boxmen of the day. "Miser" Brown ranked with Mathewson as the greatest pitcher of his period. Brown had but three fingers on his pitching hand. This made him something of a "misfit" in the eyes of some.

Charlie Paddock, our greatest sprinter, is a stocky chap. Not at all the ideal sprinting type like Archie Hahn and Arthur Duffy and Bernal Weifers. He's almost hefty enough to put the shot. But he never does because he can sprint faster than anyone else.

Star Hurler a Giant. Earl Thomson, the foremost hurler in the world, is a giant. He's not the tapering, lithe-limbed specimen generally found amongst the timber-topping marvels. Johnny Merchant of California is a wonderful thrower. He is equally adept in the running broad-jump which is supposed to require a totally different build and set of muscles. Marathon runners are generally tall and long-legged with an inexhaustible supply of stamina. Like Tom Long, once the Indian, and Al Shrubb, the once marvellous Briton. But how about the diminutive Johnny Hayes, Dorando, and St. Ives, all short and none too stocky?

Is there such a thing as an "athletic misfit?"

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2 SPECIALISTS SOUGHT TO FIX DEMPSEY'S EAR

Jack Sean Ear-Doctor in Niles, Mich., and Then Rushes to Chicago for Another.

BY A. F. HARRISON.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Jack Dempsey, world's heavyweight champion, was on his way west today, wearing a left ear which wouldn't function normally.

The champion said there was nothing seriously wrong with the internal ear and refused to discuss his secret appointment with Dr. Fred Bonine, noted specialist of Niles, Mich., yesterday. The ear was examined during the champion's brief stay in Chicago last night by another specialist, Dr. R. R. Morris.

Nearly everyone who talked with Jack discovered he couldn't hear as well when the conversation was directed toward the south side ear as when on the other side.

Sought to Cover Tracks.

Dempsey did everything possible to cover his movements during his trip to Niles and, through Chicago, although usually the champion is placed on exhibition to newspapermen and followers when going through the city. Scores of Dempsey's friends waiting to meet him here last night were disappointed when the champion failed to show at the hotel where his manager, Jack Kearns, was staying.

Apparently authentic reports were that while in Chicago, Dempsey was again in consultation with Dr. Bonine. Dempsey finally was found at the railroad station just as he was about to board the train which was to carry him to Salt Lake City, where he will spend the Christmas holidays with his folks.

Meet Doctor at Station.

Dr. Morris arrived at the station about the time Dempsey showed up, having been called by Kearns. Dr. Morris gave the ear a rather superficial examination and said there were a couple of stitches taken in it, but that it would probably heal all right.

Kearns and Dempsey discussed the ear at length. They declared that it was injured in Dempsey's fight with Bill Brown in New York, not by a punch but by the challenger when he butted the champion with his head.

They discussed the previous injury to Dempsey's ear, when it was told exclusively in United Press dispatches yesterday, and every effort was made at the time by the champion and his friends to keep it a secret.

Ten Days for Cure.

Dempsey apparently didn't have the ear treated immediately after the fight. He went to Benton Harbor and an abscess started, due to the injury. It took about 10 days

WEEK TO HANG? CHAMPION BELTS ON FAMILY TREE



Richie Mitchell.

After Lightweight Title.



Billy Mitchell.

Brother's Manager.



Pinky Mitchell.

After Lightweight Crown.

intensive treatment to effect a cure. Many good reasons, were advanced today why Dempsey and his friends should do everything possible to make the ear appear not seriously injured, the main one being that it would be a target for future opponents.

An evidence of the apparent deafness of the ear was seen just as Dempsey was about to board the train here. Dempsey was walking down the station platform when a friend came up behind him on the left side and said in a fairly loud voice:

"Oh, Jack."

Jack didn't turn around or give other evidence he heard.

Finally Able to Hear.

The man had to call several times, on each occasion in a louder tone, until finally Jack turned quickly and answered.

A reporter came up to Dempsey, on his left side, and said in a fairly loud voice:

"What do you think of your chances for beating Willard?"

No answer.

The reporter started to repeat the question when it apparently dawned on Dempsey what had been said and he turned and answered quickly as if to throw off any suspicion he might not hear well:

"They are all hard nuts—they are all hard, my boy."

Trainer with 'MAGIC HEAT' TO LEAVE IOWA U.

Jack Watson, Veteran Healer of Rock Island Independent Grid-dies, to Go to Dartmouth.

Iowa City, Iowa, Dec. 12.—It was announced that Watson Coach and Trainer Jack Watson refused to sign a contract to return next year at Iowa University.

Watson has been at Iowa for eight years and has been a material aid to Iowa's success on the athletic field. It is said he will accept a position at Dartmouth.

Prominent among the trainers of the universities of the country, "Doc" Watson, the famed dispenser of "Magic Heat" as a cure for bruises, strains and the gamut of injuries suffered by athletes playing the game, is well known in Rock Island, having been for the last number of years the healer for the Rock Island Independents.

Uses No Linctaments.

Watson is a firm believer in nature cure. He uses no liniments and in treating even the most severe sprains and bruises relies upon the natural warmth of his hands—"Magic Heat"—to effect the relief and cure. His thorough knowledge of the muscle structure of the anatomy has given him remarkable results in this massage treatment and his reputation takes a place among the most famed trainers of the country.

Iowa City has for many years been a Mecca for the incapacitated athletes from the colleges of the middle west and cases have been known where the Iowa trainer has worked for several days to round members of the opposing teams into shape for a big tilt with the Iowa team. Minnesota U. athletes have often limped into the Iowa gym, been under Watson's care for days or weeks, and frisked back to Minnesota for the critical games of the Gopher schedule.

Has Helped Independents.

Doc has often attended Independent games in this city and banded himself between halves pressing out with his "Magic Heat" the knotted muscles of embryo "charley-horses" suffered by the Islander grid-dies in the mael of the first period.

Often the boys would go to Iowa City and spend a week under the nursing of "Doc" and come home in better shape for the following Sunday's battles.

During the years of Jesse Hawley's regime in charge of athletics at the University of Iowa, Watson came to this school and soon had become one of the leading characters in the school. It is understood that his friendship with Jesse Hawley, who is now coach at Dartmouth U., is accountable for the refusal of Jack to accept the contract offered him by the Iowa authorities.

OLD ED WALSH LAUDS SPITTER

"Nothing Wrong About It," He Tells American League in Boston.

BY HENRY L. FARRELL.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

New York, Dec. 12.—"It's no more than right. There's nothing wrong about the spitball."

Big Ed Walsh, the iron man star of the White Sox and one of the greatest spitballers, thus commented today on the new lease of life granted to the molot ball pitchers by the American league.

By this decision Stan Coveleski, star pitcher of the American league and hero of the 1920 world's series, along with the other veterans of the league, will not have to seek a new line of work next season.

The National league is willing to take the same steps and probably will announce its decision after Judge Landis and the advisory board acts on their recommendations.

"The spitball is nothing more than a curve ball," Walsh said. "It is not dangerous and is not a hand out to hitting. Much of effect of the spitball on a batter is psychological."

While favoring the spitball, the

PURPLE ENTERS GENERAL SPORTS 2-RULE BANNED

In Past, Northwestern Played Only Baseball, Football; Now Soccer, Basketball and Hot Heaters.

BY DICK FAIRCHILD.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Northwestern University has abolished the obstructive two-sport rule and now we hear of her athletic recreation, with lively talk about her basketball arena, better talent for her "aves" and a smart basketball team the coming spring.

I braved the Nor-east wind today and reached the great marble and cement gymnasium building in Sheridan Road, Evanston, and found ensconced in a small, light room, one Dana M. Evans, director of all athletics at the old school.

Evans, his friends claim, gave the name to the beautiful suburban city of Evanston, but we do not know. He is no relation probably to Dr. John Evans, an early settler of the classic town, but he is admired by all present, just the same.

Athletic Meeting.

Under Evans, the afore-mentioned athletic recrudescence at Northwestern is stirring. He claims that with the two-sport rule kicked into the discard, Northwestern "U" athletes, now having the chance to participate in more than two sports, are on equal terms with other conference performers.

Naturally, the letting-down of bars makes possible big things in various sports.

Take for instance, wrestling. Northwestern this season is going in strong for the mat game. New men will register at once but the old squad looks good.

Grapplers Busy.

The tentative wrestling schedule calls for a bout with Beloit Jan. 14, with the Purdue grapplers appearing at Evanston a week later. On Feb. 4 Chicago will wrestle the Purple and seven days later come the Indiana "U" bunch. Ames is booked for Feb. 19 and Wisconsin for the last day of the month while Illinois will probably show up March 5.

Jack Sawtelle, all-round athlete, graduate of Lehigh University and quite incidentally amateur wrestling champion of the country at 155 pounds, is coaching Northwestern wrestlers.

Sawtelle also acts as assistant football coach and I saw him in action last fall when MacDevitt and the others were whipping the raw Purple gridironers into the semblance of a team. Well, Sawtelle has the biff and also the dogged courage which means every thing in sports.

Some of the footballers have followed him to the mat. Hathaway, center on the eleven, is a crackler. They have the same ideals and they're getting along mighty well. The "End of the Rainbow," which they are chasing, has about reached the point whether it may be realized soon or it may have to be put in the scrap heap.

Their Ideals.

The fighting members of the family are Richie, who seeks the lightweight crown; Pinky, who is making eyes at the welterweight title, and Billy, who is supplying the managerial fuel to assist his brothers in gaining their respective ambitions.

The fight game over in Milwaukee, home of the fighting family of Mitchells, centers largely about the ideals of the brother boxers.

Richie is considered the west's best bet to win the world's lightweight title. Pinky is in the "corner" class of welters.

The two title holders Richie and Pinky seek to haul down from their pedestals are Benny Leonard and Jack Britton.

That means they have a real job to work at.

Richie maintains that Leonard cannot claim the world's title until he disposes of him decisively. For Richie knocked out Lew Edwards, champion of Australia, and Clonnie Tait, Canada's champion. The lightweight of the Mitchell family has also beaten Welling, River, Welsh, White and a string of others.

Pinky has fought himself up from featherweight class and although three or four pounds shy of the weight of Britton, he bore him a mighty close battle the other night. The difference between the contender and the title-holder was so slight that newspapers disagreed on the verdict.

Both boys are clean fighters. They devote all their time to boxing. Brother Billy does the managing, thus keeping all the money they earn in the family strong box.

Leonard is the greatest lightweight fighting machine the ring has had for a long time. Britton, though nearing his 40 mark, is such a wise old owl that nobody seems able to tamper with his title just yet.

So meanwhile the Mitchell family goes about its business of trying to annex two titles. That would be something new in ring history. Whether they are chasing rainbows or not is one of those things in boxing that Father Time will have to settle.

old star is against freak deliveries.

"Russell Ford was the first one to use a freak ball," Walsh said. "He was putting fasters and funny twists over the plate that were being mighty hard to hit. Every one was curious to know what he was doing with the ball, and they might not have known to this day if he had not taken off his glove. One afternoon, however, one of the boys picked up his glove and saw the palm cut out. Underneath was a sheet of emery paper. That was the real start of the emery ball."

AN THE NEWS ALL THE TIME—THE

March 11—DeKalb Normal at DeKalb.

March 22—Carroll at Naperville.

MOORE ATTEND NIPP'S FUNERAL

Joe Cold Falls to Deter Hundreds of Iron Rangers from Following.

By Grid Star to Grava.

Lebanon, Mich., Dec. 12.—(United Press.)—Bitter cold today did not deter hundreds of Iron Rangers from paying final tribute to George Gipp, hero of Notre Dame football, who died at South Bend, Ind., Tuesday of pneumonia.

Scores of close friends and admirers called at the Gipp home. The body was to be taken to the funeral at 1 o'clock, where it will lie in state, with a military guard, for two hours.

At 3 o'clock Rev. Mr. O'Connor of the Baptist church and Rev. Mr. Robinson of the Congregational church were to conduct the funeral ceremony. Following the sermon the body was to be taken to Lakeview cemetery for interment.

Three of Gipp's teammates, including Coach Rockne of Notre Dame, were to be pallbearers. Three other classmates were to ride.

All the news all the time—The Argus.

Ohio State Football Team, Western Conference Champs, Leave for Battle With Famous Bruins.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 12.—Twenty-three members of the Ohio State University football squad, undefeated champions of the Western Conference left today for Pasadena, Calif., where they will meet the University of California eleven on New Year's Day.

In addition to the team and its corps of coaches, trainers and camp followers, half a hundred rooters were aboard the special train, which is scheduled to reach Pasadena next Friday.

Practice Steps.

Two practice sessions are scheduled enroute—at Denver, Colorado, on Dec. 20, and Palo Alto, Calif., Dec. 22, and several shorter stop-overs will be made at points where alumni have arranged receptions for the party.

The Buckeyes finished their daily practice schedule yesterday with a light workout on a snow covered field.

Coach Wilce announced that recovery of several men from slight injuries would probably mean that Californians would see the entire list of regulars in action, including "Pete" Stinchcomb, all-American half-back. "Hoge" Workman, quarterback, whose forward passing has won many games, and other stars.

SET COLLEGE RECORD.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 12.—The University of California baseball team set a new college record last spring by aggregating 43 contests. Since the Golden Gate athletes have won the football palm of the west experts are digging into the school's athletic prowess.

NO CONTRACT.

Columbus, Dec. 12.—Coach Jack Wilce has no contract with Ohio State as a football manager. He is just a mere member of the faculty. However, he isn't expecting to get "canned" after his impressive showing.

High School Basketball "5" Begins Season Tonight With Alumni Team For Opponents

BY "ALIBI AL."

The Rock Island high school basketball squad will open the season tonight in the Y gymnasium with the annual game against the alumni. The strong alumni five is confident of coping the bacon, but the high school team has been working hard and the old grads may get fooled.

Ever since the class tournament two weeks ago, Coach Kimmel has pushed his men to the utmost in preparation for this battle. Captain Rosenkrans and Henke are the only two veterans of last year's championship team back in school, and Henke will only be eligible until the middle of January. All of the other three men are new at the game and the coach has had to put a great deal of time in on these players.

Now They Line Up.

Captain Rosenkrans will start at center tonight. Last year he played forward most of the time, but his height makes him a good center. He is a good shot and so far has been showing up in good form. Biehl and Duncan will play the forwards. Biehl played on the second team last year, but was too small to get on the first squad. This year he had little difficulty in making on the team. Duncan, the football star, will play the other forward. Although he is not the bright light he was on the football field, Duncan plays a good game and is one of the main cogs in the Islander scoring machine.

Hall Makes Debut.

Henke and Hall will play the guards. Henke played running guard last year and was one of the best in these parts. This is Hall's first season at the basket game, but he is big and strong and is expected to be a star before the season is out. Besides these five men, Edwards, a sophomore, has been showing up with good form and will probably get a chance to play before the game is over.

Although most of the above men are not letter men the locals have a fighting chance to win against the alumni.

Grade Won Last Year.

Last year the grade defeated the

school boys by the score of 48-39 and the high men are expecting to get revenge. The only way the locals can win is by superior team work. Coach Kimmel has been working hard on this detail and the team works good together for the first of the season.

Last night the first squad put it over the scrubs with ease, scoring basket after basket with little effort. The teamwork was good and the team had the signals down to perfection. If the high men did as good tonight as they did last evening the battle will be close.

Probable Line-ups.

Following are the probable line-ups:

High school: RF, LG, C, G, F, D.

Alumni: LG, RF, C, G, F, D.

RUDOLPH GIVEN RIGHT TO OPEN FOR HIS RELEASE

Boston, Dec. 12.—Dick Rudolph, the "Little Master," who was one of the trio that pitched the Braves out of the rack to a league and world championship in 1914, has been given authority by President George W. Grant to negotiate for his transfer.

It is understood that he seeks to join the Detroit Tigers because of a desire to take a flying American league batsman. Consent of all the other National league clubs will be necessary before he can negotiate with Detroit directly.

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TREMAINE VICTOR OVER JOE BURMAN IN BITTER FIGHT

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